

Weather Forecast

Fair, some cloudiness, continued cold today, with maximum temperature about 47 degrees; tomorrow, fair, slightly warmer. Temperatures yesterday—Highest, 41, at 4:30 p.m.; lowest, 28, at 6 a.m. From the United States Weather Bureau report. Full details on Page A-2.

The Sunday Star

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TEN CENTS

British Sink 7 Nazi Destroyers; Germans Occupy 3 Norse Towns; Baltic Is Mined, London Declares

Big Naval Battle At Narvik; 1,000 Believed Lost

LONDON, April 13.—Great Britain threw the overwhelming might of her navy today against the Nazi captors of Norway's east port of Narvik and announced she had sent seven German destroyers to the bottom of the rocky bay and narrow inlet there in the second sea assault on that focal point of northern war within four days.

Even when King George VI and the British government were assuring King Haakon of Norway and his people that allied help against the German invaders was coming and coming soon, the great battleship Warspite, rebuilt veteran of Jutland, was leading a powerful flotilla up narrow Narvik fjord, smashing a German coastal battery and then sinking the Nazi destroyers before and behind the town, killing perhaps a thousand German seamen.

The Admiralty confidently predicted this daring victory would "clearly the situation on this part of the Norwegian coast." It did not say whether any British troops were landed, although at least one Stockholm radio report stated this to be a fact.

Operations proceeding. "Fleeing men, possibly German soldiers," were seen running over the hills behind Narvik.

"Further details are awaited," said the Admiralty.

"The Admiralty is not precisely informed of conditions in Narvik town * * * operations are still proceeding."

No estimate can be made at present of German losses in personnel, but the seven destroyers sunk must have counted over 1,000 men," said the announcement.

Three of the attacking destroyers were damaged, but not seriously, and "British loss of life is believed to have been very small," it continued.

The storming of Narvik was hailed in rejoicing London as a prime achievement in vigorous British sea and air actions to loosen the Nazi hold on Norway prior to a general allied offensive against the invaders.

Sequel to Foray Wednesday.

This daring attack was a sequel to Wednesday's dawn foray into Narvik fjord when the British reported one out of six German destroyers were sunk and three others were set afire.

In that battle the British lost two out of five attacking destroyers, the Hunter and the Hardy, and two others were damaged. (The Germans say six British destroyers have been sunk at Narvik.)

In addition to the Nazi warships, the British reported seven German supply and ammunition ships were sunk in Wednesday's action, described by First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill as worthy of any in the proud records of the British navy.

Participating in today's expertly maneuvered fight was the British destroyer Cossack, which, with Admiralty backing, took matters into its own hands and charged into Norway's territorial waters February 16 to rescue 300 British merchant sailors held aboard the Nazi prison ship Altmak, at one time an auxiliary to the now-scuttled sea raider Admiral Graf Spee.

Here is the Admiralty's calmly worded story of today's battle:

"Since the attack upon German destroyers in Narvik on Wednesday by the Second Destroyer Flotilla, this flotilla, with reinforcements, has been blockading the enemy in Narvik fjord.

"This morning at about noon H. (See LONDON, Page A-14.)

Brann to Seek Senate Nomination in Maine

AUGUSTA, Me., April 13.—Louis J. Brann, former two-term Democratic Governor of Maine, whose 1932 victory presaged the Roosevelt landslide of that year, tonight announced his candidacy for the party's United States senatorial nomination. Maine's primary is June 17.

The announcement, made known to colleagues at a Jefferson dinner here, followed by a few hours the filing by Gov. Lewis O. Barrows for the Republican nomination. Also seeking the Republican nomination was Representative Brewster.

A Milepost in Western Solidarity

Today is the 50th Anniversary of the Pan-American Union.

The significance of this institution as a symbol of the cultural and economic union which binds the nations of the Western Hemisphere is treated in today's Star in articles and pictures.

The attention of readers is directed to today's Rotogravure section, where the history of the Pan-American Union is treated pictorially, and to the Editorial Section, containing articles on the history and significance of our relations with Latin America.

Field Extends Off Reich Coast To Lithuania, Admiralty Says

Germany's Access to Copenhagen, Except Through Swedish Waters, Reported Cut

LONDON, April 14 (Sunday).—The Admiralty early today announced British-laid minefields in the Kattegat had been extended southward to cut off German sea access to Copenhagen except through Swedish territorial waters.

British minelayers, either submarines or surface craft, penetrated the Baltic to lay the new mine barrage, the Admiralty said.

This would mean the British vessels had slipped either through the narrow strait separating Denmark from Sweden or through the wider channel west of Zealand, Denmark's main eastern island.

The Admiralty declared that adjacent Swedish territorial waters would be left free of mines.

The new minefield stretches as far east as Lithuanian coastal waters—a distance of about 350 miles—covering the entire German Baltic coast, the Admiralty said.

This would be Britain's first penetration of the Baltic in wartime, waters that are closely guarded by Germany as vital to her own defense and her supply routes to Scandinavia.

Germany transports vital Swedish ore by way of the Baltic except in winter when the main port, Lulea, is icebound.

10,000 Are Homeless After Fire Sweeps Colon, Panama

Swath 16 Blocks Wide Cut Through City; Origin Is Unknown

COLON, Panama, April 13.—Cutting a swath 16 blocks wide through Colon, a wind-swept fire tonight destroyed hundreds of frame tenement houses and left approximately 10,000 persons homeless before it was controlled by a small army of firefighters.

The fire raged for hours in this city on the Atlantic side of the Panama Canal before United States Army officials announced its spread was stopped. Its origin was not determined immediately.

The Army officials also said it was impossible to estimate immediately the property damage.

No casualties were reported.

Traffic Cut Off.

The fire never reached the American town, New Cristobal, but it did cut off traffic between Cristobal, seat of the port administration, and New Cristobal, where United States employees of the Panama Canal reside.

It was said unofficially that there was no suspicion of sabotage.

The United States Navy rushed sailors and marines and all available naval craft from the Coco Solo base to assist in fighting the fire, and the United States Army and Canal Zone officials placed equipment at the disposal of Colon officials.

Five freight cars loaded with 150 men and six trucks arrived from Panama.

The Panama Canal engineering division dynamited buildings in the path of the fire.

The Army assembled tents and other relief equipment to aid the victims, many of whom were laborers employed in the Canal Zone.

The city's principal thoroughfare, Paseo del Centenario, became a camping ground for thousands of the destitute homeless who lost their belongings.

Army and Red Cross Offer Services

By the Associated Press.

Army and Red Cross officials said last night they had offered their services to relieve distress as a result of a fire at Colon, Panama, which was reported to have made thousands homeless.

War Department officials said that Maj. Gen. Daniel van Voorhis, commanding general of the Panama Canal Department, had telegraphed that he was offering "all facilities of the Army" to the city of Colon and the President of Panama to help care for refugees.

Red Cross officials said that George Smith, representative in the Canal Zone, had been ordered to inspect the burned area and see what help was needed.

Mrs. Roosevelt Rebuffs Heckler During Speech

CHICAGO, April 13.—Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt told an American Youth Congress peace rally tonight that "the problem of youth unemployment is not entirely up to the Government," and had a quick answer from an interrupter.

"We want jobs, not theories," shouted a voice from the balcony. "You may boo me if you like, you may question me when I'm through, but while I speak please hear me out," she answered.

The first lady was greeted with a round of applause at this point and there were no more interruptions. She advocated a "big housing program" because this work "employs more people than anything else."

"I believe that industry, right now, could do a good deal more co-operating in giving young men jobs," she asserted.

The American Youth Congress of Chicago sponsored the rally at which Mrs. Roosevelt made her third speech here within a few hours.

Low Countries Alert In Most Critical Period of War

Dutch Armed Forces Are Ready; Belgians Guard Public Properties

By the Associated Press.

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands, April 13.—The Netherlands faced tonight its most critical period since the outbreak of the European war—with its armed forces fully alert to strike back at any invasion, new strategic areas under martial law and the government reiterating its vow to maintain a policy of complete independence despite pressure from the warring powers.

Belgium, too, invoked new defensive measures, posting military guards at all public properties—radio stations, ministries, airmen's quarters.

The Netherlands merchant marine suffered another loss in the sinking of the steamer Velocitas, 197 tons, which struck a mine off the English coast last night with the loss of three lives. The Velocitas was bound from England to Antwerp with coal.

Martial Law Extended.

Strengthening the hands of elderly Premier Drees, Jan de Geer's government and the army high command, Queen Wilhelmina of The Netherlands tonight issued a royal decree extending the nation's martial law areas.

The military was given control over additional zones in the southeastern province of Noord Brabant, where the main first defense lines are located, and in northern and eastern provinces.

Since last November's first "invasion scare," the Netherlands literally has been dotted with these martial law zones, covering points which are component parts of the elaborate Dutch scheme of land, sea and water-line defense.

Heretofore, however, the north-eastern provinces of Groningen, Drenthe and Overijssel, flanking the broad reaches of the IJsselmeer (Zuider Zee), had no such zones, and other provinces were not completely encased in the state of siege.

Concern Felt in Low Countries

Since the war spread to Scandinavia, within easy striking distance of the coasts of Groningen and its off-shore islands, much concern has been manifest in both The Netherlands and Belgium.

There have been charges both from Germany and from the allies that "the other side" is threatening a surprise attack on the low countries.

Netherlands radio programs were interrupted tonight for a special broadcast of a British denial of rumors that English troop transports are on the way to Holland.

The communiqué said the report apparently had been carried by the German radio and published in the Berlin newspaper Nachtausgabe.

The average Hollander seems heightened by the strong defense measures which his government has taken (their exact nature is a military secret) and by the knowledge that well-equipped army and naval forces are fully prepared to resist any surprise attack, either on the eastern frontier or along the North Sea coast.

Foreigners Are Uneasy

However, there are signs of uneasiness among some foreigners. British nationals, for instance, have been advised to report to their consulates at Amsterdam and Rotterdam the moment any emergency arises.

The government press service emphasized the government's determination to stick to its policy of independent neutrality (Holland has no defense or non-aggression pacts with any country, not even Belgium). It said the government would make no advance arrangements with any belligerent for aid in case of attack.

The army guards in Belgium were described officially as precautionary, "because of the general tension." Additional army leaves were banned.

Troops Landed on Skagerrak Fight Way Toward Oslo

SOVIET IS REPORTED POSTING RUSSIAN "INCIDENTS" IN NOTING; Bucharest's relations with Germany grow worse. Page A-7

NAZI INFANTRY DRIVE near Luxembourg repulsed, French say; German attack stopped at barbed-wire barrier, high command asserts. Page A-21

NAZI COMMUNICATIONS in Norway are termed biggest problem; links between scattered units are held precarious. Page B-4

STOCKHOLM, April 14 (Sunday).—Overcoming brief Norwegian resistance, German troops early today occupied at least three more towns on the south-eastern tip of Norway and continued their brisk drive northward toward Oslo.

Reports from Norwegian troops and refugees reaching Sweden said the town of Fredrikstad had surrendered after short fighting, that Sarpsborg was in German hands and that the town of Halden (Fredrikshald) on the Swedish border had been surrendered by the Norwegians.

Approximately 100 Germans were reported to have arrived in Halden in automobiles and buses. Before their arrival the Norwegians, who said there was no use to waste lives in attempting to hold the line from Sarpsborg to Fredrikstad and Halden, crossed the border with supplies. They were disarmed by Swedish authorities.

Repulse of Nazis Reported.

Correspondents for Swedish newspapers reported that fighting yesterday at Eldsvid, north of Oslo, had resulted in the repulse of the Germans, relieving the pressure on the town of Kongsvinger, 50 miles northeast of Oslo near the Swedish frontier. All civilians had left Kongsvinger in anticipation of a German attack.

Newspaper reports from Oslo said the Germans had appealed to the Norwegian royal family to return to Oslo, and had warned the Norwegian people that the German war power would proceed "without mercy" if the people continue their resistance.

The Germans also warned that martial law would be proclaimed and all Norwegians opposing the German occupation would be sentenced to death as well as those responding to the order of the Norwegian government to mobilize.

Germany landed new expeditionary forces yesterday in southeast Norway.

Refugees Pour Into Sweden.

Refugees from the region reaching Stockholm said that throughout large areas in this part of Norway civilians had fled, leaving their homes to be fought over by the opposing armies. Refugees poured into Sweden.

The newly-landed Germans, commandeering buses and motor cars, smashed their way through a hastily formed defense ring which the Germans had built around Oslo to prevent the Germans from augmenting the forces which captured the capital Tuesday.

The Germans, according to refugees arriving here, smashed the Norwegian ring between Hølen, 25 miles south of Oslo, and Moss, 10 miles farther south, on the east side of Oslo fjord.

Bridge Dynamited.

The Norwegians fought hard but were unable to repel them, at one point dynamiting a bridge as the first German bus crossed a strait to prevent just such a maneuver.

To prevent just such a maneuver (See STOCKHOLM, Page A-6.)

Danish Ship Transfers To Honduran Registry

SAN FRANCISCO, April 13.—Danish freighter Peter Tassen sailed today for Central America under a new name, flying the flag of Honduras.

The vessel's departure with new colors was significant since British authorities have declared that Danish ships are to be regarded as technical enemies of the allies unless they sail under an allied flag. British officials here declined to comment.

The 5,383-ton vessel's new name is the Aztec.

McNutt Will Take Leave in May for Campaign Tour

By the Associated Press.

INDIANAPOLIS, April 13.—Frank M. McNutt, manager of the presidential nomination campaign of Federal Security Commissioner Paul V. McNutt, said tonight Mr. McNutt would take a three-week leave of absence next month to make a campaign tour.

Mr. McNutt's trip, Mr. McNutt said, would take the security commissioner into the deep South and the West.

Mr. McNutt would be a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination if President Roosevelt does not seek a third term.

Mr. McNutt said an announcement of the tour and leave of absence would be issued Monday in Washington.

Senator Neely to Enter Gubernatorial Race

By the Associated Press.

FAIRMONT, W. Va., April 13.—Senator M. M. Neely, opponent of the State administration and leader of the "federal" wing of the Democratic party in West Virginia, announced tonight he would seek the gubernatorial nomination in the May 14 primary.

He will oppose Democratic State Chairman R. Carl Andrews, choice of the State administration headed by Gov. Homer A. Holt.

Radio Programs, Page F-5
Complete Index, Page A-2



Features of the Spring Dinner of the Gridiron Club
Editor's Note: This cartoon completes Mr. Berryman's 43d year—without a break—of illustrating the Gridiron dinner high lights for the first page. He will begin his second 43 years with the dinner next December.

0 Street Fire Laid To Bad Construction, Slipshod Inspection

Two Inquiries Ended; No Criminal Negligence, Coroner's Jury Decides

Two investigating bodies yesterday blamed faulty construction and slipshod inspection methods for the fire which took three lives as it raged through the White Court Apartments, 2131 O Street N.W., on April 11.

A coroner's jury and a committee appointed by the District Commissioners arrived at the same conclusion in fixing blame for the blaze. The jury's verdict was reached late in the afternoon, after four days of hearings, simultaneous with the report to the Commissioners.

The coroner's jury decided there had been no criminal negligence. Assistant District Attorney Charles B. Murray, who attended the inquest sessions, said that since the jury had decided not to hold any one for grand jury action, the case was closed.

Both investigative bodies concluded the fire had been caused by a defective chimney, which had been remodeled in 1937. Both pointed out that the building inspector's office, after issuing a permit for the remodeling work, had failed to inspect it and detect obvious faults.

And both groups pointed out that the apartment had been erected in 1925 around the framework of an old stable, in direct violation of building regulations then in effect. At that time also, it was held, the building inspectors failed to detect the violations.

Those Held Responsible.

The coroner's jury singled out no individuals in its verdict, but the Commissioners' investigators named four men as responsible for the defects. Two of them are dead, a third is an aged man who can remember nothing of the building and the fourth is a colored bricklayer.

The jury's report was extremely brief, stating merely:

"We believe that the fire was caused by the defective flue chimney in 1937 under plans which were contrary to the requirements of the building code of the District of Columbia. There had been no inspection of the construction during the process of the work nor at the completion."

"The extent of the fire was due to improper construction in 1925. We believe, in both cases, these defects would have been corrected and discovered had there been proper inspection from the building inspector's office; and from the evidence presented it is apparent that there is a serious lack of personnel in the inspection staff."

Report to Commissioners.

The Commissioners' investigating committee summarized its findings as follows:

1. The fire was caused by a defective chimney, the defects being

(See INQUEST, Page A-18.)

7,500 in Heavy Wraps Watch Cherry Blossom Spectacle

Queen and Court Escorted to Throne After Crossing Tidal Basin in Swan Boat

COOL WEATHER seen awaiting thousands in city for Cherry Blossom Sunday. Page A-3

PICTURES OF FESTIVAL and the cherry blossoms now in bloom at Tidal Basin. Page B-1

Spring's frosty reception failed to blight the Cherry Blossom Festival on the Tidal Basin last night.

A temperature hovering five points above freezing only served to quicken the tempo of the dancing, pagentry and music symbolic of nature in a tender mood.

Cheeks, fingers, even noses, of the Queen and the charming Princesses of her court were as pink as the cherry blossoms which framed their opening.

Air throned arena beside the shimmering water of the Tidal Basin.

A half moon—the "Pale Potomac Moon" of the festival's theme song—turned a chilly face through the trees on some 7,500 spectators who waited in heavy wraps and blankets to pay homage to the Queen and the daughter of the vice president, the Board of Trade, and her court advanced upon the coronation scene across the Tidal Basin in a gaily-lit swan boat.

The swan boat was attended by a flotilla of canoes lit by red torches.

The aquatic procession circled and blossoms which framed their opening.

(See FESTIVAL, Page A-3.)

Gridiron Club Depicts Roosevelt as Sphinx In Ninth Term

'No Precedents Left To Break,' Diners Learn At Annual Fete

(Guest List on Page A-7.)

Fifteen presidential "possibilities," Democratic and Republican, dined last night with the Gridiron Club at the Willard Hotel. Included in the list was President Roosevelt.

Before the dinner concluded, 14 of the presidential candidates were treated to a vision of a white-bearded sphinx—President Roosevelt—winding up his ninth term in the White House.

As portrayed by the club, the President was left with nothing to do.

"No more precedents to break—she's broken them all. No more money to spend—he's spent it all. No more appointments to make—everybody working for the Government. He can't even take a vacation any more—there's nothing to take a vacation from."

A well-starched company of statesmen, diplomats, business executives, college presidents and professional leaders watched the show as the newspapermen's famous club gave a preview of the national political campaign and with song and jest played public men on the gridiron for a good-natured sizzle.

Chief Justice Hughes, just turned 78, broke his no-social-life regimen to attend, and six associate justices of the court joined in the fun. Vice President Garner violated his bed-at-9 rule to watch the skits.

They saw the G. O. P. (Grand Old Party) trying out actors to play "Scarier O'Nominer" in "On (Continued on Page A-8, Column 1.)

D. A. R. Congress, Opening Tomorrow, To Focus on Defense

4,000 Delegates Expected To Center Attention On 'The Home Front'

With the conflict abroad directing their attention to national defense and protection of the "home front," more than 4,000 daughters of the American Revolution will convene here tomorrow for an intensive five-day program.

The 49th Continental Congress of the D. A. R. will be called to order at Constitution Hall in the evening. The mass meeting sponsored by the D. A. R. National Defense Through Patriotic Education Committee will be held at the Mayflower Hotel in the afternoon.

The delegates will fill Memorial Continental Hall this afternoon for memorial services for members who have died during the last year.

Mrs. Robert T. Speak.

Mrs. Henry M. Robert, Jr., president general, will pay tribute to the 2,464 deceased members. Mrs. John Laidlaw Buel will speak for the honorary vice presidents general, Mrs. Val Taylor for the vice presidents general, Miss Janet Richards for the charter members, Mrs. Julius Y. Talmadge for the ex-national officers and Mrs. Arthur M. McCrillis for the ex-State regents.

The tribute to founders, which follows the memorial service and will be held at the Founders' Memorial Monument in the garden of Memorial Continental Hall, will have special significance, because this is the year of the golden jubilee, the 50th anniversary of the founding of the patriotic organization.

Pilgrimages to the Tomb of the (See D. A. R., Page A-5.)

News of D. A. R.

Full reports of the D. A. R. Convention, April 14 to 21, inclusive—

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Roosevelt Hits Nazi Invasion Of Scandinavia

Military Aggression Seen Menacing Civilization

By JOHN C. HENRY.

In curtly emphatic words, President Roosevelt last night condemned German invasion of Denmark and Norway.

Survival of civilization itself, he declared, is dependent on respect by the world's powerful nations of the territorial integrity and independence of their smaller neighbors. Clearly, he implied that in his opinion this essential respect is lacking in the release of force and military aggression against the two Scandinavian neutrals.

The Chief Executive's pronouncement, a positive and highly important expression of foreign policy of this Government, was contained in a two-paragraph statement. It follows in full:

"Force and military aggression are once more on the march against the small nations of the world through the invasion of Denmark and Norway. These two nations have won and maintained during a period of many generations the respect and regard not only of the American people, but of all peoples, because of the observance of the highest standards of national and international conduct."

Repeals Disapprobation

"The Government of the United States has on the occasion of recent invasions strongly expressed its disapprobation of such unlawful exercise of force. It here reiterates, with undiminished emphasis, its point of view as expressed on those occasions. If civilization is to survive, the rights of the smaller nations to independence, to their territorial integrity and to the unimpeded opportunity for self-government must be respected by their more powerful neighbors."

Roosevelt's reference to previous expressions of disapprobation served to emphasize the consistency with which his administration has placed itself on record in disapproval of the aggressive policies of the totalitarian nations. Beginning with October, 1937, his administration has been quoted by the press as having directed specific criticisms at policies being followed by Japan, Italy, Germany and Russia.

Consistently, too, his administration has refused recognition of territorial acquisitions achieved by force, a circumstance which leaves onetime envoys from Czechoslovakia, Poland, and most recently Denmark without countries but with full diplomatic recognition here.

Other Official Declarations

Leading immediately to last night's pronouncement, have been the following declarations within a period of little more than a year.

Condemning German invasion of Czechoslovakia, Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles on March 17, 1939, said:

"This Government cannot refrain from making known this country's condemnation of the acts which have resulted in the temporary extinguishment of the liberties of a free and independent people."

"It is manifest," he added, "that acts of wanton lawlessness and of arbitrary force are threatening world peace and the very structure of modern civilization."

Secretary of State Hull issued a supplementary statement on March 24, following his temporary absence from Washington, declaring that he had been "profoundly shocked" by the developments in Europe and adding that new evidence of international lawlessness make all the more clear that never before has the support of all nations for law and order and sound economic relations been more urgently needed than at present."

Albanian Invasion Scored

A few days later Italy invaded Albania and Secretary Hull declared on April 8, 1939:

"The forcible and unprovoked invasion of Albania is unquestionably an additional threat to the peace of the world. * * * Any threat to peace involves concerns all nations, and violates the principles which the world that their governments shall lead them, not toward war, but along paths of peace."

President Roosevelt moved to stave off the gathering war clouds on April 15, 1939, by sending to Hitler a personal letter in which he said that the leaders of great nations have it in their power to liberate (See ROOSEVELT, Page A-15.)

Fair Abandons Pageant Because of Wage Dispute

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, April 13.—The New York World's Fair today abandoned its \$500,000 patriotic pageant, "American Jubilee," billed as the No. 1 amusement spectacle of the fair's 1940 run, because of failure to reach an agreement on wages for its 320 performers.

Rehearsals had been halted Thursday after Actors' Equity demanded \$45 a week for chorus and ballet compared with the \$40 offer of the fair management. Negotiations were started in an attempt to settle the dispute, but after Equity's Council voted today to stand on its \$45 demand, Harvey D. Gibson, board chairman of the fair, said there was "no other course open to us than to abandon the production."

Equity's wage stand covered all productions at the fair, indicating further disputes. In announcing the council's decision, Bert Lytell, acting president, said Equity had assurances of support from other member unions of the Associated Actors and Artists of America, A. F. L. parent of the actors and stagehands organizations.